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Cadets, Drags, Old Grads Enjoy Graduation Fun

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WEST POINT, June 3—It's hard to tell who's having the most fun at the United States Military Academy's "June Week"—the 2350 cadets, their parents and -drags, or the 1050 old grads who've returned to the Point for nostalgic class reunions.

By the thousands they're spilling over the 15,000-acre post, strolling down its wooded paths, and meeting friends in the massive gothic buildnig. They're taking in reviews and parades, hops (five in all), athletic events, suppers, luncheons and picnics.

For the cadets and their drags there are strolls down the Point's famous Flirtation Walk. Just above the river's level, the walk follows the Hudson for three-fourths of a mile through a charming woodland. Along it are points of historic interest—the site of old Chain Battery, where the chain which was stretched across the Hudson was anchored; the lighthouse at Gee's Point; and Kosciuzsko's garden.

BUT BY far the most popular object on the walk is the huge, over-hanging boulder called "Kissing Rock."

Generations of West Pointers have convinced their drags that the rock will fall with a crash if a girl refuses to kiss her cadet while standing in the rock's shadow.

Hordes of June Week visitors have invaded this sleepy Central Hudson valley, and have taken over all available rooms in hotels, inns and private homes from Marlboro (25 miles to the north) to West Nyak and Suffern, 30 miles south. They've penetrated 12 miles into Central Valley, and crossed the Hudson to stake claims on rooms in the little town of Fishkill. On the Academy grounds, three star generals (among them, Anthony (Nuts) McAuliffe, Bwacksher Bryant, a former West Point superintendent, and Charles Cabell) are bunking in the cadets' barracks.

WHILE many general officers' wives are quartered in the visiting teams' dorm, and the famous Old Thayer Hotel has crammed 600 happy sweethearts and proud parents into its 240 rooms.

Windup of the 5-day "Week" of colorful and traditional pageantry comes today at 10 a. m. when 570 cadets (568 more than the first graduating class in

1802) receive their Bachelor of Science degrees at the Field House. Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy is on hand to give the graduation address.

Heading the 1958 class when the black-and gold-ribboned diplomas are handed out will be the number one man academically, George Walker of Brooklyn, N. Y. Incidentally, George walked away with five awards at the military and academic awards review.

LAST to be graduated will be Bill Kelley, who as the class of 1958 "goat" will receive the largest ovation of the day. Then the ceremonies will end on a wild note as the new officers kiss their old cadet caps goodbye and toss them to the ceiling with shouts of glee. (They confess they've been practicing tossing the caps for weeks).

Immediately after graduation, the June Week weddings begin. Fifty-three of the 570 cadets will say "I do" before Sunday. After about a month's leave, the young officers report to their branch schools for additional training. Drawing the largest number of cadets is the artillery with 154. Infantry places second with 129.



Cadet Charles P. Cabell Jr. and his date, Sally White, both of Washington, wave to friends to the parade grounds.